

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING LANCE CORPORAL
JONATHAN E. GIERKE, UNITED
STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in great sorrow. On January 19, 2022, Lance Corporal (LCpl.) Jonathan E. Gierke, from Lawrenceville, Georgia, tragically passed away as a result of a tactical vehicular rollover in Onslow County, North Carolina. LCpl. Gierke was stationed in my Congressional district at Camp Lejeune and was a Landing Support Specialist with Combat Logistics Battalion 24, Combat Logistics Regiment 2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group.

LCpl. Gierke was the son of a Navy veteran and a member of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) at Collins Hill High School, Georgia. He began his active duty in March of 2021. Since then, LCpl. Gierke's assignments include being stationed at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina; School of Infantry-East in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

LCpl. Gierke's service to our country can best be shown by his attainment of the National Defense and Global War on Terrorism Service Medals. His duty and commitment to our country will never be forgotten and I am forever grateful for all that he accomplished and for his service to our beloved country.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in remembering this patriot and recognizing all the sacrifices that he made for our beloved country.

HONORING DR. PAUL ANTONIK
FOR HIS TREMENDOUS CAREER
AT THE AIR FORCE RESEARCH
LABORATORY IN ROME, NEW
YORK

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Paul Antonik for his exceptional career culminating in his appointment as Chief Scientist for Connectivity and Dissemination at the Air Force Research Laboratory.

Dr. Antonik dedicated his long and distinguished career to developing warfighting information technologies for air, space, and cyberspace forces. Dr. Antonik began his work with the Department of the Air Force in 1978 as an electronic engineer at the Rome Air Development Center. After five years of service, he transitioned into the private sector, working on developing, designing, and evaluating sensor systems, waveforms, and signal processing

techniques. In 1998, Dr. Antonik returned to government service and joined the Sensors Directorate at the Air Force Research Laboratory. Dr. Antonik's exceptional work earned him a spot in the Senior Executive Service in 2012 as the Chief Scientist for Connectivity and Dissemination.

Dr. Antonik received six U.S. patents and authored or co-authored over fifty-five journals, papers, and reports. Additionally, Dr. Antonik won the prestigious Presidential Rank Award in 2019. As the Chief Scientist, Dr. Antonik led the Information Directorate as its principal scientific advisor and oversaw technologies that span the functional areas of command and control, communication, computer, intelligence, and cyber. Throughout his career, Dr. Antonik served the Air Force in a multitude of roles developing sensor systems and knowledge-aided signal processing techniques. Dr. Antonik was an early advocate for applying artificial intelligence into the radar signal processing chain, which is now a best practice for this type of work.

I am grateful for Dr. Antonik's over thirty years of service to the Air Force and his contribution to the scientific community. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Dr. Antonik on his retirement and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MARTHA
SWORDS AS THE OKALOOSA
COUNTY, FLORIDA EDUCATION
STAFF PROFESSIONAL OF THE
YEAR

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Martha Swords as the Okaloosa County Education Professional of the Year. She has spent years contributing to education in Northwest Florida in many capacities. She is currently working as an Exception Student Education Paraprofessional.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best educators in the Nation. It is recognized that working in education is one of the most difficult yet rewarding occupations in existence. Mrs. Swords has dedicated her life to educating children in a way that will best help them learn.

Mrs. Swords support and outreach extend throughout Okaloosa County School District. Mrs. Swords has displayed dedication by working with students individually, according to their unique needs and by working in a childcare network as a teacher of four year olds. I commend her for her steadfast willingness to serve those that matter most—the students and youth of our Nation.

For all of her admirable contributions to our community, I am truly proud to have Mrs. Swords as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Mrs. Swords for her many accomplishments, and her commitment to excellence, professionalism, innovation, and collaboration in the Okaloosa County School District. I thank her for her service, and wish her all the best for her continued success.

HONORING THE CREW OF THE
“HORIZON RELIANCE”

HON. KAIALI'I KAHELE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Mr. KAHELE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of the crew of the U.S. Flag commercial ship *Horizon Reliance*, sailing out of Honolulu and operated by third-generation, family-owned Pasha Hawaii.

On the evening of November 6, 2020—over 1,000 miles northeast of O'ahu—a private turbo-prop plane with two individuals onboard was enroute from California to Honolulu before suffering an engine casualty. As a pilot myself—with thousands of hours logged in both military and commercial passenger aircraft—believe me when I say that this is the worst possible scenario in aviation: to be in the middle of the ocean, 1,000 miles from the closest land, in the middle of the night when your one and only engine fails.

As water rapidly filled the cabin, the two pilots managed to escape the aircraft, clambering into their life raft and called the Honolulu Coast Guard Search and Rescue center via satellite phone.

With 8–10 foot seas and 30 knot winds on-scene, the Coast Guard realized the gravity of the situation and quickly dispatched a mayday alert calling out for volunteer commercial ships to lend aid, as the distance from shore prevented a search-and-rescue helicopter operation.

Due to the hazardous conditions, the first ship to arrive on scene was unable to rescue the desperately heaving life raft, but was able to remain on scene rendering a glimmer of hope for the crash survivors. Shortly thereafter, the *Horizon Reliance*, under the command of Captain Mark Tuck, arrived and expertly commenced a small-boat operation to retrieve the survivors. Cautiously maneuvering the vessel under arduous conditions, the men and women of the *Horizon Reliance*—union members of the Masters, Mates and Pilots, Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, and Seafarers International Unions—recovered the pilots aboard the vessel and brought them to safety.

I cannot overstate how truly close this incident came to tragedy; the lives of these two aircraft crash survivors, their families and friends were forever changed due to the actions of the crew of the *Horizon Reliance* that fateful evening. It speaks even more to the dedication and devotion to duty of the mariners of the U.S. merchant fleet—the brave

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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